Anne-Marie Johnson 2009 Email Blast "Branches 1"

Sent August 31, 2009

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Dear Screen Actors Guild Branch Member,

As one of SAG's presidential candidates, I wanted to personally communicate with you regarding the upcoming election. When elected, I'll be the national president, representing all SAG members. Not just the members in Hollywood or New York.

My record with regard to national Guild concerns is clear. As a national board member for over 10 years, I've consistently voted in favor of dues waivers requested by our branch board members. I've spent many years of my career working outside of Hollywood and know first hand the dearth of SAG covered work in many regions in this country. Especially in Right To Work states, making it even more difficult for SAG members to afford yearly mandatory union expenses.

As recently as July 2009, I, along with the president, secretary-treasure and 2nd vice president, based on a request from 3rd vice president David Hartley-Margolin, supported a motion delaying the automatic increase in SAG's initiation fee specifically because of the potential hardship it may cause new joins in our branches.

Unlike my opponent Seymour Cassel, I believe a member should have as many opportunities to work SAG jobs, assisted by SAG staff, with strong representation on the national board, wherever they live in this country.

Unlike my opponent Ken Howard, I was a strong opponent of the 2009 TV/Theatrical Contract for several reasons but most specifically due to the New Media proposals. Those proposals now allow SAG signatory employers to produce non-union work in New Media with budgets $15,000,00 per minute or less. No guaranteed minimums, P & H contributions or residuals. I believe our employers will choose to produce these New Media production in Right To Work states, taking advantage of the ever growing non union talent pool, making our SAG branch members obsolete. I was against the 2009 TV/Theatrical contract because of New Media, loss of the mileage increase and other issues which I believe will harm a disproportionate number of our branch members.

Unlike my opponent Ken Howard, I have never nor will I ever support any motion to institute any form of Qualified/Affected Voting. Any plan of selected qualifications for the right to vote on SAG contracts will greatly impact members living in areas where work is more than sporadic at no fault of our members. Qualified/Affected Voting is an elitist notion that I will not support.

Unlike my opponent Ken Howard, I am against the use of the Written Assent. I believe it is a flaw in SAG's constitution and I have joined in a lawsuit against my union to correct what I believe is blatantly unfair. The Written Assent denies the minority a voice in board decisions. From 2005 to 2008, while in the majority, MembershipFirst never used the Written Assent, which would have allowed the majority to take any action, large or small, without the input or objection of the minority. Although MembershipFirst has been accused of wanting to close branch offices, during the years MembershipFirst held the majority on the board, not one single branch office was closed. Just the opposite. In 2007/08, the Guild, under a MembershipFirst majority, with the leadership of Doug Allen, promoted a staff person to Regional

Branch Executive Director, added an executive in New Mexico and hired more SAG staff to assist our members in New Orleans, Dallas, Philadelphia, Las Vegas and Miami.

I take my SAG board obligations seriously. Unlike my opponent Ken Howard, my over 10 years of board meeting attendance records are irreproachable. Just in the past year there have been 10 Hollywood Division Board Meetings. I attended and chaired ALL 10. Mr. Howard attended ONLY 2. In the past year SAG has held 9 National Board meetings. I attended ALL 9. Mr. Howard attended ONLY 3.

The Screen Actors Guild is a labor union and needs to be lead like one. I have the experience and union know-how to serve SAG members with insight and determination. With the patience and desire to truly listen to all members' concerns, I am willing and able to proudly serve as your next president. Both Connie Stevens, SAG Secretary-Treasurer candidate, and I would appreciate your support.

For more information about my union experience and my plans to make the Screen Actors Guild an even stronger labor union, including uniting all actors-performers under one roof, please visit www.anne-mariejohnson.net.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Johnson